

010529 - Rio Salado Oeste, Phoenix, AZ

Contributed by Scott Estergard
Tuesday, 24 October 2006

Project: Rio Salado Oeste Feasibility Study, Salt River, Phoenix, Arizona

Summary: The Rio Salado Oeste Study is being conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Los Angeles District and the City of Phoenix, with the cooperation of the Flood Control District of Maricopa County (FCDMC). The purpose of this study is to identify whether there is a Federal interest in implementing a project along the Salt River from 19th to 83rd Avenues in Phoenix. This study is to identify feasible flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration alternatives that are technically feasible, economically practicable, sound with respect to environmental considerations, and publicly acceptable. The City of Phoenix, as the non-Federal sponsor, supports the proposed project purpose to provide flood damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, passive recreation, and other related outputs.

On October 18, 2006, the Corp's Civil Works Review Board unanimously agreed the Rio Salado Oeste project meets policy. The project may now be released for state and agency review.

Upon completion of a 30-day review period, the project will be submitted to the Chief of Engineers for approval. USACE anticipates having a signed Chief's report by December 2006. The project may be authorized for construction if the Chief's report is signed and a Water Resources Development Act is passed this year.

Background Information: The study area is located along an 8 mile reach of the Salt River in Phoenix from 19th Avenue to approximately 83rd Avenue. The primary problem is the severe degradation and loss of riparian habitat along the Salt River; which once flowed perennially and supported substantial growth of cottonwoods, willows, and mesquites. Increasing appropriation of surface and groundwater resulted in the transformation of the Salt River to a dry river that flows only ephemerally in response to storm runoff and effluent discharge. In addition to restoration there are opportunities to reduce future flood damages and improve recreation opportunities associated with the restored floodplain.

History: Previous studies and reports have considered flooding, water quality, environmental degradation, and recreation on the Salt River. A 1995 reconnaissance study conducted by the Corps found a Federal interest in pursuing feasibility studies on a 33 mile reach of the river. Of the 33 miles 2 specific areas had a non-Federal interest in pursuing a study at that time and included sites in Tempe and Phoenix with those Cities being the non federal sponsors. The Rio Salado Project is currently in final phase of construction.

Rio Salado Tempe
Rio Salado Phoenix

Tres Rios Project

In 2000 the Tres Rios project was authorized. It includes the area from 83rd Avenue to the Agua Fria River where flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration features are under design.

Also in 2000 the reconnaissance study for the reach of Salt River from 19th to 83rd Avenues was completed. That study found a Federal interest and a non Federal sponsor interested in cost sharing a feasibility study. In 2001 this feasibility study (Rio Salado Oeste) was initiated with the City of Phoenix and Corps of Engineers.

Schedule: May 2006- Draft Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement will be released for public review and comment period, this will also include a public meeting which will be announced.

Maps:
Vicinity Map with other Corps Projects (216KB PDF)
Study Area (381KB PDF)
Tentatively Recommended Plan (130KB PDF)

Reports:
Final Feasibility Report
Table of Contents (194KB PDF)

Chapter 1 - 3 (1.18MB PDF)
Chapter 4 (1.91MB PDF)
Chapter 5 (633KB PDF)
Chapter 6 (125KB PDF)
Chapter 7 (257KB PDF)
Chapter 8 - 10 (355KB PDF)

Final Environmental Impact Statement
September 2006 - EIS -No Pictures and Appendix - (939KB PDF)

*Note - If you wish to obtain an entire version of the Final Feasibility Report and/or the Environmental Impact Statement, please contact us with the numbers below and we will be happy to furnish you a CD copy.

Stakeholders/Study Participants:
City of Phoenix
Flood Control District of Maricopa County
Rio Salado Citizens Advisory Committee
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Arizona Department of Fish and Game

Points of Contact:
Corps Project Manager: Eric Eldridge, 602-640-2021
Corps Study Manager: Scott Estergard, 602-640-2004
Corps Public Affairs Specialist: Jennie Salas, 602-640-2015 x285
City of Phoenix: Karen Williams, 602-262-4717